



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 April 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- TechWeb News reports security firm Cloudmark Inc. has discovered a phishing scheme in which the scammers used Internet telephony to copy a bank's automated voice system in order to steal customers' passwords, account numbers, and other personal information. (See item [6](#))
- AgNews reports this summer, farmers and ranchers will find it more difficult to buy ammonium nitrate, a commonly used nitrogen fertilizer that can also be used to make bombs. (See item [17](#))
- The Associated Press reports two New Jersey laboratories have been unable to account for plague-infested mice and vials of deadly anthrax spores; authorities think the items in question were simply unaccounted for due to clerical errors. (See item [29](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 26, Dow Jones* — **Premier Oil and partners buys unit of ExxonMobil.** Premier Oil Wednesday, April 26, announced the acquisition, together with its partners Medco and Japex, of a subsidiary of ExxonMobil which holds a 50 percent working interest in the North Sumatra Block A PSC, onshore Indonesia. The operator of the block is ConocoPhillips. The block

contains undeveloped discoveries on the Alur Siwah, Alur Rambong, and Julu Rayeu fields certified as holding over 650 billion cubic feet gross of proved and probable reserves.

Source: [http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt\\_rt\\_top.jsp?cat=TOPBIZ&src=704&feed=dji&section=news&news\\_id=dji-00036020060426&date=20060426&alias=/alias/money/cm/nw](http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt_rt_top.jsp?cat=TOPBIZ&src=704&feed=dji&section=news&news_id=dji-00036020060426&date=20060426&alias=/alias/money/cm/nw)

2. *April 25, Bloomberg* — **Babcock & Brown Infrastructure to buy NorthWestern.** Babcock & Brown Infrastructure Group of Australia moved to expand in the U.S. by agreeing to buy NorthWestern Corp., a South Dakota–based utility, for \$2.2 billion in cash. Sydney–based Babcock & Brown, an operator of ports and utilities, has also invested in U.S. power cables and wind power farms. NorthWestern provides electricity and gas in Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska, and delivers electricity to 375,000 customers and gas to 253,500. The purchase is subject to regulatory approval. The transaction would be the latest purchase of a U.S. utility in a year that has seen about \$160 billion industry transactions worldwide so far, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's more than five times the \$30.4 billion in the same period a year ago. National Grid Plc in February agreed to buy New York–based KeySpan Corp. for \$7.3 billion in cash. MidAmerican Energy Holdings purchased Portland, Oregon–based PacificCorp from ScottishPower Plc for \$5.1 billion last month.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000081&sid=aIe7VPNoQ0z8&refer=australia>

3. *April 25, Associated Press* — **PUC: Texas has enough electricity for summer demand.** Regulators say Texas should have enough electricity to meet the summer demand, according to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) at a hearing before a Texas Senate panel in Austin. PUC chairman Paul Hudson says the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) needs to communicate better with government agencies and the public when rolling blackouts are needed. Thousands of Texans lost electricity April 17th when demand for power exceeded the supply — as temperatures topped 100. Up to 15 percent of the state's power supply was off–line for seasonal maintenance when five power generators shut down unexpectedly. That forced ERCOT to impose rolling blackouts.

Source: [http://www.team4news.com/Global/story.asp?S=4817265&nav=menu\\_90\\_3](http://www.team4news.com/Global/story.asp?S=4817265&nav=menu_90_3)

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

4. *April 26, Click2Houston* — **Broken valve blamed for chemical leak in Texas; 1,000 residents asked to remain indoors.** Nearly 1,000 residents in La Porte, TX, were asked to stay indoors Tuesday night, April 25, after a hydrochloric acid and ethyl hexyl chloroformate leaked out of the PPG Chemical Plant due to a broken valve. Fairmont Parkway and West Main were also shut down in both directions for about three hours.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12495759/from/RSS/>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

5. *April 25, Air Force Link* — **Air Force issues RFI on tanker recapitalization.** The Air Force issued a request for information (RFI) Tuesday, April 15, for its tanker recapitalization program. The Tanker Systems Modernization Systems Squadron of Aeronautical Systems Center's Mobility Systems Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH, sent out the RFI for publication in Federal Business Opportunities and will manage the program. By issuing the RFI, the Air Force has restarted the requirements and acquisition processes necessary for a traditional competitive acquisition program to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker.  
Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123019471>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

6. *April 25, TechWeb News* — **Phishers snare victims with VoIP.** On Tuesday, April 25, security firm Cloudmark Inc. reported discovering a phishing scheme in which the scammers used Internet telephony to copy a bank's automated voice system in order to steal customers' passwords, account numbers, and other personal information. In the attack that occurred last week, con artists sent spam disguised as coming from a small bank in a large East Coast city, said Cloudmark. The message asked the recipient to dial a telephone number to talk with a bank representative. The number went to an automated voice system that asked for an account number and personal identification number, or PIN, in order to access the caller's finances. The number was obtained through a regular provider of voice over Internet protocol services. The incident reflected a mutation in the tactics used by phishers to snare victims and the first Cloudmark has seen using Internet telephony. Cloudmark's investigation showed that the scammers had used open-source software called Asterisk to convert a computer into a PBX, or private branch exchange, running an automated telephone information system. The voice system sounds exactly like the bank's phone tree, directing the caller to specific extensions, Adam J. O'Donnell, senior research scientist at Cloudmark, said.  
Source: <http://www.networkingpipeline.com/shared/article/printableArticleSrc.jhtml?articleId=186701021>
7. *April 25, IDG News Service* — **Data theft disclosure meant less pain for LexisNexis.** After a high-profile security breach exposed personal data about thousands of customers, LexisNexis found that being forthright was the best approach, according to Leo Cronin, LexisNexis senior director for information security. By being forthcoming with the public and victims the company survived with minimal impact, said Cronin, Tuesday, April 25, at the Infosec Europe 2006 conference in London. The security breach hit LexisNexis early last year. LexisNexis is breaking its silence over the incident to help educate and get feedback about approaches to breaches, he said. LexisNexis made an immediate decision to be forthcoming about the breach. The company contacted affected individuals using the framework of a California data security disclosure law passed in 2003 as a guide, Cronin said. The company reviewed Web applications security and created new procedures for verifying customers with access to sensitive data. Certain customers were encouraged to sign up for antivirus software. It revamped online security access, looking at password complexity and expiration times. The company implemented measures to automatically detect anomalies in its products to identify potential security problems. LexisNexis learned that passwords are dead, and two-factor authentication

is recommended. But front-door perimeter attacks are less likely than the persistent weak link: people.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,110866,00.html?SKC=security-110866>

8. *April 25, Contra Costa Times (CA)* — **Phishing scams including checks to add legitimacy.**

Phishing scammers are sending bogus letters for a \$100,000 sweepstakes from "North American Commission House" and asking recipients to claim their prize by paying \$2,800 in "processing" fees. The letter comes with the \$2,900 check to cover the fees. The scam of requesting "processing fees" in return for a large cash prize is old hat, police say. But in a twist, the crooks actually send fraudulent checks to their potential victims to make the con seem more legitimate. People who get the letters and checks are unaware the check is fraudulent and go to the bank to cash it. Often in an effort to get their prize money back as soon as possible, then victims pay the processing fee with their own money, assuming the check will cover the fees when it clears, he said. Weeks later they find that the check was fake and that the money is lost to them. Checks have been forged from Waste Connection Inc., a waste management company in Folsom, CA. Although there are some minor printing mistakes, Bob Evans, Waste Connection executive vice president, said the checks are nearly identical to the company's real ones and include routing numbers.

Source: [http://www.dfw.com/mld/cctimes/business/14422474.htm?source=rss&channel=cctimes\\_business](http://www.dfw.com/mld/cctimes/business/14422474.htm?source=rss&channel=cctimes_business)

9. *April 24, DM News* — **Bank of America fights phishing as a unit.** If you are a large e-mail sender constantly subjected to phishing scams, all parts of your organization must be on the same page to combat the problem, said Eric Johnson, vice president of Bank of America, at the E-mail Authentication Summit last week. "Inventory all the senders in your organization...We look at all our business units and which hosts are sending out from Bank of America," he said. Some ISPs check not only the URLs that e-mails originate from, but also the Web hosts. Johnson also said that all units in a corporation must be educated on e-mail authentication. Bank of America holds an e-mail group meeting weekly with executives across several units, including information security, e-commerce, and marketing. Johnson said, "We know ahead of time if problems are going to come up...Maintain continuous communication with all of your internal groups." Testing e-mail campaigns before sending them also is vital.

Source: [http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article\\_id=36543](http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=36543)

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

10. *April 26, Associated Press* — **New cruise terminal in Brooklyn.** With the arrival of the Queen Mary 2 on April 15, New York opened a major new cruise terminal in Brooklyn's gritty Red Hook neighborhood. The Brooklyn Cruise Terminal is the new designated "home port" in New York for the QM2, its sister ship Queen Elizabeth 2, and several other ships from the Cunard and Princess cruise lines, both owned by Carnival. Most of the city's cruise piers are in Manhattan, located just a short cab ride from Times Square, the Broadway theater district, and many Midtown hotels. The Brooklyn terminal, in contrast, is in a relatively out-of-the-way, working-class neighborhood with small brick homes, warehouses, and few amenities in the

immediate vicinity for tourists.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2006-04-25-brooklyn-cruise\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2006-04-25-brooklyn-cruise_x.htm)

11. *April 26, Associated Press* — **Mesa Air profit declines.** Mesa Air Group Inc., operator of regional airlines Mesa Airlines, Air Midwest, and Freedom Airlines, on Wednesday, April 26, said fiscal second-quarter profit dropped 51 percent, hurt by a debt-equity charge and expenses related to a startup. Net income fell to \$5.3 million, or 14 cents per share, from \$10.8 million, or 26 cents per share a year ago. Results include a \$7.5 million charge associated with converting debt to equity. The company had a \$3.6 million expense in the quarter relating to starting up a Hawaiian operation.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060426/earns\\_mesa\\_air.html?v=1](http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060426/earns_mesa_air.html?v=1)

12. *April 26, Associated Press* — **Minuteman Project gains appeal.** Minuteman organizers say this spring's marches have proved to be an unexpected recruitment tool for Americans. The Minuteman Project first gained attention last year when Orange County resident and former tax accountant Jim Gilchrist helped lead its first 30-day patrol of the border in Arizona. The group has added mainstream political tools, including a network of local chapters and e-mail lobbying campaigns. In the coming weeks, the Minuteman Project plans to set out in a caravan from Los Angeles to Washington, DC, with stops in 13 cities. It is also raising money to build a private fence along parts of the California-Mexico border. Increased security along the border is a popular idea on Capitol Hill, where the immigration debate will soon resume. How to treat the approximately 11 million illegal immigrants now here is where Congress splits — a House bill would criminalize the immigrants, a Senate bill would offer guest worker status and a potential path to citizenship.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20060426-1036-immigration-minutemanproject.html>

13. *April 26, WFSB (CT)* — **Connecticut lawmakers, governor agree on transportation package.** Democratic legislative leaders and Republican Governor M. Jodi Rell announced Wednesday, April 26, they have reached a deal on a 10-year, \$2.3 billion transportation package that will not raise gas taxes or require tolls. It includes money for a commuter rail line between New Haven and Springfield, MA; a study of a commuter line from New London to Worcester, MA; \$45 million to expand Metro-North service from Norwalk to Danbury; and money to upgrade the port in New Haven, with plans to do the same in New London and Bridgeport in the future. Instead of being funded with increased taxes or tolls, about \$1 billion of the \$2.3 billion package will be bonded. Additional money will come from the federal government and the gross receipts tax on petroleum products, which now goes into the general fund.

Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/Global/story.asp?S=4821449&nav=1VGm>

14. *April 26, Associated Press* — **New Orleans transit system facing post-Katrina money woes.** The New Orleans agency that runs the streetcars and buses is bracing for the loss of emergency federal assistance and preparing for drastic cuts in staff and services already diminished by Hurricane Katrina. The Regional Transit Authority was notified recently that after June 30th the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will stop paying for an "emergency plan" supporting mass transit operations in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, which has grown rapidly since displaced residents fled there. Once the FEMA emergency financing ends, the authority

will have to pay for its basic mass transit operation with money from its normal sources: fares, a small portion of the city's hotel-motel tax and a small portion of the state's sales tax.

Source: <http://www.katc.com/Global/story.asp?S=4820581>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

15. *April 26, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Avian influenza: Another reason for premises ID registration.** Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt, Wisconsin's State Veterinarian, says the H5N1 strain of the virus hasn't been found in North America yet, but if it does, the nearly 13,000 poultry producers and game bird growers in Wisconsin who've already registered their premises will have a leg up. The purpose of premises registration is to provide basic information to animal health officials in the event of an animal disease outbreak. Premises registration is important for various domestic animal disease situations and programs such as tuberculosis, vesicular stomatitis, Newcastle and West Nile.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=499&yr=2006>

16. *April 26, Cattle Network* — **Anthrax found in British cattle.** British health officials investigating the first case of anthrax in British cattle in four years say they have taken urgent steps to ensure the public isn't at risk from the potentially fatal bacteria. The Welsh assembly said that no cattle from the herd of 35 animals had been sent to market for almost 12 months.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=32141>

17. *April 25, AgNews (Texas A&M University)* — **Ammonium nitrate fertilizer generates fears of terrorism.** This summer, farmers and ranchers will find it harder and harder to buy ammonium nitrate, a commonly used nitrogen fertilizer, said a Texas Cooperative Extension expert. Present concerns have originated from fears of terrorism. Ammonium nitrate can be used to make bombs such as the one that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995. Several legislative attempts to regulate and record the sale of ammonium nitrate have failed since the Oklahoma City bombing, said Roger Hoestenbach, associate director of the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service in College Station. But legislators included extensive record-keeping requirements for dealers of ammonium nitrate in the 2007 federal farm bill. Feed and fertilizer dealers are responding to the requirements, which go into effect in October, by reducing stocks of ammonium nitrate, and perhaps not carrying it at all, Hoestenbach said.

Source: <http://agnews.tamu.edu/dailynews/stories/SOIL/Apr2506a.htm>

18. *April 25, Associated Press* — **Whirling disease to receive more attention from legislators.** Whirling disease — a disease that can deform trout, cause them to chase their own tail and eventually lead to their starvation — will get special attention this year from legislators, who

want to try to reduce its effects on commercial and recreational fisheries. More than a dozen private fish hatcheries have tested positive for whirling disease in Utah since 1991, causing multiple commercial trout facilities to either shut down or be quarantined at a cost of millions of dollars to the state's economy.

Source: <http://www.heraldextra.com/content/view/176520/4/>

19. *April 21, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **USDA wrapping up annual safety and health training conference.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) is conducting its annual safety and health training conference for employees in New Orleans, LA. The conference began Monday, April 24, and will wrap up Friday, April 27. The theme for this year's conference and training is "Prepare Today for Tomorrow." USDA's MRP personnel were among the many USDA personnel at the forefront in responding to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. Holding the annual safety and health training conference in New Orleans is part of USDA's commitment to support rebuilding efforts.

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2006/04/0135.xml>

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## **Food Sector**

20. *April 26, Food Production Daily (Europe)* — **EU ministers support more bird flu aid.**

European agriculture ministers have approved a plan for the European Union (EU) to offer more compensation to poultry farmers affected by falling sales in the wake of bird flu.

Consumer concerns about eating infected birds have led to 300,000 tons of poultry in storage across the bloc. A European Commission regulation on market support commits the EU to funding half the cost of veterinary measures, such as slaughtering chickens, and half the cost of restrictions on animal movement resulting from a nearby bird flu outbreak. In addition, poultry processors and farmers could also get compensation for falling sales, amid public concern over bird flu.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/ng.asp?n=67315-bird-flu-eu-poultry>

21. *April 24, Reuters* — **Estonia finds first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.** Estonian authorities have detected mad cow disease in a dead 11-year-old cow after a routine test at a slaughterhouse, the Agriculture Ministry said on Monday, April 24. If confirmed, it would be the country's first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, a disease that destroys the brains of cattle.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L24276481.htm>

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## **Water Sector**

22. *April 27, THV2-TV (AK)* — **Drought continues in Arkansas despite rain.** A National Weather Service hydrologist says that, despite recent heavy rains, Arkansas's 14-month drought isn't over yet. On Tuesday, April 25, hydrologist Steve Bays said that rain that fell

overnight in much of the state will provide only temporary relief from the state's dry spell. He said the rains weren't enough to break a drought that has dried up drinking water supplies and forced farmers to plant fewer acres of their crops.

Source: <http://www.todaysthv.com/news/news.aspx?storyid=27557>

**23. *April 25, Control Engineering* — Test facility opens for solar-powered water treatment.**

Cardinal Resources LLC is opening a new test facility for developing a completely self-contained, high-tech solar-powered water treatment system. Cardinal Resources' Red Bird system reportedly produces clean water for fractions of a cent per gallon and is called a high-tech solution designed to function in a low-tech environment.

Source: <http://www.manufacturing.net/ctl/article/CA6327056.html?spac edesc=latestNews>

**24. *April 25, Fulton Sun (MO)* — Drought could leave dams dry.** Record droughts throughout the Midwest could spoil more than farmers' harvests and summer fishing trips. If reservoirs used to generate hydroelectric power for Fulton, MO and other municipalities don't receive a healthy helping of rain, the drought also could hike electric bills in the upcoming summer months. Historically low water levels in lakes throughout Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma are posing a dilemma for the federal Southwestern Power Administration (SPA), which operates hydroelectric dams at those reservoirs. SPA officials say many of the lakes are at their lowest water levels on record — reducing pressure on the dams' power turbines and crippling their ability to produce power.

Source: <http://www.fultonsun.com/articles/2006/04/25/news/250news13.txt>

**25. *April 25, Associated Press* — Oil spill shuts miles of Delaware Bay oyster beds.** Delaware's environmental chief ordered a large area of South Jersey oyster beds closed Tuesday, April 25, hours after an oil slick was spotted in the Upper Delaware Bay. Authorities describe the slick as a five to six-mile long narrow band responsible for contamination from the Cohansey River to Egg Island.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--oilspill0425apr25.0.1657045.print.story?coll=ny-region-apnewjersey>

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## **Public Health Sector**

**26. *April 26, Associated Press* — Wyoming cracking down on rabies.** A new state rule requires that any unvaccinated dog, cat, or ferret that bites a person in Wyoming must be immediately euthanized for rabies testing. Dr. Jamie Snow, public health veterinarian at the Wyoming Department of Health, said that Wyoming previously had no state law requiring animals to be vaccinated. Snow said Governor Dave Freudenthal signed the rule at the end of March, and no human bite cases that would trigger the rule have come up since then. "We certainly see numerous, numerous people who are bitten, and the animal is not vaccinated. Way too many," Snow said. Snow said she didn't have figures available of how many people in Wyoming are bitten by unvaccinated animals, but said many people in the state go through the post-exposure treatment each year to prevent the disease from possibly developing. Snow said there have been no cases of fully developed rabies in people in Wyoming, but said there are one to four cases in

the country each year.

Source: [http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,D\\_RMN\\_15\\_4651352,00.html](http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,D_RMN_15_4651352,00.html)

27. *April 26, ABC 7 News (CO)* — **Colorado mumps case tied to national outbreak.** A Colorado mumps case reported to the state Department of Public Health and Environment has been tied to the national outbreak. The announcement was made by the health department on Wednesday, April 26. Dr. Ned Calonge of the Department of Public Health and Environment, said the case involves a 45-year-old woman from Douglas County. According to the Tri-County Health Department, the woman, who became ill on April 14, had recently made two car trips to Iowa where she was visiting a sick family member who did not have mumps. The case is the first to test positive out of 25 suspect cases in Colorado reported as part of the increased statewide surveillance resulting from the mumps outbreak that began in Iowa. That outbreak since has spread to surrounding states, including Colorado's bordering states of Nebraska and Kansas. Colorado had six cases in 2005 and has had only three cases so far this year, including the newly confirmed case. Calonge said, "There is no evidence that Colorado is involved in the multi-state outbreak, at least not yet...It's difficult to predict, at this time, whether we will be significantly impacted or not."

Source: [http://cbs4denver.com/local/local\\_story\\_116080400.html](http://cbs4denver.com/local/local_story_116080400.html)

28. *April 25, Associated Press* — **Airlines balk at epidemic safeguards.** Concerned about bird flu, federal health officials want airlines to collect personal information about domestic and international passengers to help track a potential epidemic. Financially strapped airlines say creating such a database would impose staggering new costs. Dr. Marty Cetron, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) director of global migration and quarantine, said "There's just a number of conditions where acting quickly with electronic access to passenger information is going to make a lot of difference." The CDC wants to be able to easily find, notify, and recommend treatment to airline passengers who have been exposed to bird flu as well as such diseases as plague, dengue fever, or SARS — even if the travelers' symptoms don't appear while they're traveling. Health officials are especially concerned about a flu pandemic. The CDC plan calls for airlines to ask passengers their full name and address, emergency contact numbers and detailed flight information. Airlines would have to keep the data for 60 days and, if asked, transmit it to the CDC within 12 hours. The plan creates a system of due process for people who are quarantined and makes clear the procedures and jurisdiction over people carrying contagious, deadly diseases.

Source: [http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/ats-ap\\_health12apr25.1.4850053.story?coll=sns-ap-tophealth](http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/ats-ap_health12apr25.1.4850053.story?coll=sns-ap-tophealth)

29. *April 25, Associated Press* — **Missing bioterror substances have New Jersey officials guessing.** In the past year, two New Jersey laboratories have been unable to account for plague-infested mice and vials of deadly anthrax spores, and top state officials are scrambling to devise better ways to safeguard deadly material. In both cases, authorities say they think the items in question weren't actually lost, but were simply unaccounted for due to clerical errors. Last week, state health officials said they could not account for two vials of anthrax bacteria once thought to have been stored at a government laboratory in Trenton. In September, a Newark health research lab lost track of three mice infected with the bacteria responsible for bubonic plague. The mice were never located, and officials said the rodents might have been

stolen, eaten by other lab animals or just misplaced in a paperwork error. While the FBI and state authorities are investigating the possibility that the anthrax and mice were removed from the labs, they believe that no crimes have been committed. The Newark lab that lost track of the plague-infested mice conducts bioterrorism research for the federal government. After the incident, the facility improved its video surveillance and stopped using contracted animal handlers. Before the incident, the center relied on a single security guard.

Source: <http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060425/NEWS01/60425045/1020/VARSITY>

30. *April 25, Herald (UK)* — **Measles outbreak warning for nursery-age children.** The threat of measles is soaring among Scotland's nursery pupils, a survey of more than one million children reveals. Experts are warning "significant outbreaks" of the virus could affect parts of Scotland. With parents continuing to shun the combined measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, the researchers predict the number of children at risk is likely to continue to grow. Claire Cameron, an epidemiologist with Health Protection Scotland, authored the study — the first of its kind — to look at vaccination records for all children born in Scotland between 1987 and 2004 and charted the rising number of families rejecting the vaccine. She found there are 25 districts where more than one in five nursery school children were potentially vulnerable to measles because they have not been vaccinated. The total compares to three in 1998. Black holes exist in urban areas as well as more rural communities, whereas previously the greatest gaps in protection tended to lie in more remote locations. The researchers said parents in deprived communities were more likely to delay vaccinating their children and the team expressed anxiety that an outbreak could widen the health gap between affluent and poor neighborhoods.

Source: <http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/60750-print.shtml>

31. *April 24, Center for Biosecurity (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)* — **Hospitals are under-prepared for pandemic.** This week, the Center for Biosecurity of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center publicly released its key recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on steps to better prepare hospitals for an influenza pandemic. The Center recommends that HHS: institute Regional Hospital Collaboration by allocating \$250 million of the \$350 million provided to HHS for state and local pandemic preparedness to fund Regional Hospital Coordinating Groups; create a National Framework for Allocation of Limited Medical Resources by convening a panel of national experts to develop general guidelines for hospitals to ration services and alter standards of care in a pandemic; revise Pandemic Preparedness Guidelines for Hospitals by further developing and refining the hospital preparedness checklist in the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan to a greater degree of specificity; and commissioning a study on the financial impact of a pandemic on U.S. hospitals and healthcare system to inform policymakers of funding necessary for future preparedness efforts. These recommendations stem from a working group meeting on hospital preparedness at the Center on March 1, 2006.

Critical Next Steps for Hospital Pandemic Preparedness: Recommendations for Federal Government ACTION: <http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/pages/publications/hospitalpreps-060418.html>

Source: <http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/bb/index.html#2>

32.

*April 24, Associated Press* — **South Carolina steps up efforts to prepare for avian flu.** South Carolina agricultural officials say the state is prepared for an outbreak of bird flu, even though one is not expected here. The Clemson University Animal Diagnostic Center in Columbia has increased testing for avian flu, including at the state's 631 chicken farms, and the state veterinarian's office is hiring extra employees to test at 20 auctions and flea markets where live birds might be sold. The state Natural Resources Department also is preparing for testing of migrating ducks and other wild birds when they come back to South Carolina in the fall. That plan includes getting help from hunters and possibly testing during routine check-ins by hunters at wildlife management areas.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/local/14418272.htm>

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**33. *April 25, Aviation Now* — Virtual reality helps train first responders at Baltimore/Washington International Airport.** Baltimore/Washington International Airport has begun to offer virtual reality computer-based training for first responders at a disaster. The Maryland governor's Office of Homeland Security teamed with the state Department of Transportation to provide funding for the training, spokesperson Jonathan Dean said. "This system gives first responders at the airport another tool to practice and prepare for disasters," he said. "It's less costly and more efficient than producing large-scale exercises. It also lets large numbers of people attend sessions."

Source: [http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel\\_airports\\_story.jsp?id=news/BWI04256.xml](http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_airports_story.jsp?id=news/BWI04256.xml)

**34. *April 25, SitNews (AK)* — Alaska preparedness response drill planned.** The Ted Ferry Civic Center in Ketchikan, AK, will be the command post for the Southeast Alaska Preparedness Response Exercise Program Drill occurring April 26 and 27. The equipment deployment scheduled for April 27 will take place in Bostwick Inlet, testing and validating one of the Southeast Alaska Geographic Response Strategies as part of an ongoing project. On April 17, an unannounced drill was successfully completed at Ward Cove. The drill simulated a release of diesel fuel requiring the tug crew to conduct immediate response actions. The command post exercise on April 26 will build off the scenario and drill exercised on April 17. Participants will include representatives from the Oil Spill Response community and various stakeholders, including the U.S. Coast Guard, Island Tug/Barge, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Source: [http://www.sitnews.us/0406news/042506/042506\\_prep\\_drill.html](http://www.sitnews.us/0406news/042506/042506_prep_drill.html)

**35. *April 25, Daily News (ND)* — Reverse 911 system to get tested.** Richland County, ND, Communication/911 Manager Jill Breuer said the county will be testing their reverse 911 call system on Wednesday, April 26 in a role reversal situation where emergency personnel will

contact residents by telephone. This is a computer-based system the county installed to help officials and the community respond to emergency situations. During an emergency it's important to get public safety information out as quickly and to as many people as possible. Reverse 911 is a community notification system to contact businesses and residents in the event of an emergency such as flooding, tornadoes, a hazardous material spill, when there is a missing child or in the case of an escaped prisoner.

Source: <http://www.wahpetondailynews.com/articles/2006/04/25/news/news01.txt>

**36. April 24, *Government Computer News* — States not prepared for 2006 hurricane season.**

Eight hurricane-prone states still lack interoperable communications in the face of the 2006 storm season, according to a new report from the First Response Coalition (FRC). The report, titled "The Imminent Storm 2006: Vulnerable Emergency Communications in Eight Hurricane Zone States", examined interoperability efforts in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. Weather forecasters predict an active and dangerous 2006 hurricane season, so improving communications interoperability is imperative, the coalition said. FRC found a disparity among the eight states' interoperability plans.

Source: [http://appserv.gcn.com/cgi-bin/udt/im.display.printable?client.id=gcn\\_daily&story.id=40518](http://appserv.gcn.com/cgi-bin/udt/im.display.printable?client.id=gcn_daily&story.id=40518)

**37. April 24, *WPMT-TV (AL)* — Mobile County, Alabama Emergency Management Agency sets up evacuation survey.** On March 31, 2006, Mobile County Emergency Management Agency announced an online evacuation survey to help make future plans for evacuations, sheltering and transportation needs during the 2006 hurricane season. The online survey is in English and Spanish and will remain online at least until the end of May. Beginning Tuesday, April 25 until May 31, there will also be a telephone call in version of the survey, as well as translation services in Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian.

Survey: <http://www.cityofmobile.org/survey.php>

Source: [http://www.wpmi.com/news/local/story.aspx?content\\_id=3618F258-397C-40BC-A7E3-A03CE3694246](http://www.wpmi.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=3618F258-397C-40BC-A7E3-A03CE3694246)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

**38. April 26, *Security Focus* — Microsoft Windows Shell COM object remote code execution vulnerability.** Microsoft Windows Shell is prone to a remote code execution vulnerability. This issue is due to a flaw in its handling of remote COM objects. Analysis: If a user is logged on with administrative user rights, an attacker who successfully exploited this vulnerability could take complete control of an affected system. An attacker could then install programs; view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights. Users whose accounts are configured to have fewer user rights on the system could be less impacted than users who operate with administrative user rights. For a detailed list of vulnerable products:

<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17464/info>

Solution: Microsoft has released an advisory along with fixes to address this issue. Microsoft has updated this security bulletin (MS06-015) to release new fixes due to problems with the fixes originally released with this bulletin. Customers who did not experience problems with

Windows shell or Windows Explorer after installing the original fixes do not need to update their fixes.

Microsoft Security Bulletin MS06-015:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/Bulletin/MS06-015.msp>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17464/solution>

39. *April 26, Security Focus* — **Mozilla Suite And Firefox XPInstall javascript object instance validation vulnerability.** Mozilla Suite and Mozilla Firefox are affected by an input validation vulnerability. This issue is due to a failure in the application to verify input passed to installation objects. Analysis: Firefox and the Mozilla Suite support custom "favicons" through the tag. If a link tag is added to the page programmatically and a javascript URL is used, then script will run with elevated privileges and could run or install malicious software. For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/13232/info>  
Solution: Mozilla has released an advisory along with upgrades dealing with this issue.  
For further information: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/13232/references>  
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/13232/discuss>
40. *April 26, Washington Post* — **IE revised in response to security concerns, loss of users.** Internet users were given a peek Tuesday, April 25, at a revamped version of Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer (IE), a response to criticism that the most popular tool for Web surfing and hacking made users vulnerable to the Internet's dangers and caused them to defect to alternative browsers. A test version of IE 7 is available for download from Microsoft's Website, with tighter security protection and more advanced tools to give the user greater control in navigating the Web, said Dean Hachamovitch, general manager of IE. The company has improved its ability to write secure code, but it's unclear if the latest tools will address other dangers on the Internet, which require users to be more savvy, said Bruce Schneier, chief technical officer at Counterpane Internet Security Inc.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/25/AR2006042501910.html>
41. *April 25, Security Focus* — **Mozilla Suite/Firefox javascript lambda replace heap memory disclosure vulnerability.** Mozilla Suite/Firefox are reported prone to a memory disclosure vulnerability. This issue can allow a remote attacker to access arbitrary heap memory. Analysis: A bug in javascript's regular expression string replacement when using an anonymous function as the replacement argument allows a malicious script to capture blocks of memory allocated to the browser. A Website could capture data and transmit it to a server without user interaction or knowledge. For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/12988/info>  
Solution: The vendor has released an upgrade dealing with this issue.  
For more information: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/12988/references>  
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/12988/discuss>
42. *April 25, Tech Web* — **Firefox bug could be serious.** Although Danish vulnerability tracker Secunia ranked Mozilla's Firefox 1.5.0.2 zero-day vulnerability as "low," U.S.-based security vendor Symantec said the danger may be more dire. "It does appear that triggering the vulnerability using the proof-of-concept results in the execution of data somewhere in anonymous memory, possibly in a portion of the heap," Symantec said Tuesday, April 25. "If

this memory were somehow populated by an attacker with a malicious payload, this condition could likely be exploited to execute arbitrary code."

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=186700930>

43. *April 25, CNET News* — **Insiders infiltrating firms, UK crime agency warns.** Employees are still one of the greatest threats to corporate security. Speaking Tuesday, April 25, at the Infosecurity 2006 conference in London, Tony Neate, e-crime liaison for the Serious Organized Crime Agency, said insider "plants" are causing significant damage to companies. "[Organized crime] has changed. You still have traditional organized crime, but now they have learned to compromise employees and contractors. [They are] new-age, maybe have computer degrees and are enterprising themselves," he added.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Mafia+insiders+infiltrating+firms%2C+U.K.+cops+warn/2100-7348\\_3-6064954.html?tag=cd.top](http://news.com.com/Mafia+insiders+infiltrating+firms%2C+U.K.+cops+warn/2100-7348_3-6064954.html?tag=cd.top)

44. *April 24, Reuters* — **Password overload hitting firms' IT security: study.** Security breaches from computer viruses, spyware, hacker attacks and theft of equipment are costing British business an estimated \$18 billion a year, according to a survey on Tuesday, April 25. The loss is 50 percent higher than the level calculated two years ago, said the study by consultancy PricewaterhouseCoopers for the Department of Trade and Industry. One area of concern for security, the study warned, was the increasing number of user IDs and passwords employees were having to remember. Virtually every UK company uses anti-virus software, but a quarter of businesses are not protected against the newer threat of spyware. In addition, one in five corporate wireless networks is completely unprotected.

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/reuters/2006-04-25\\_L2447182.0.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/reuters/2006-04-25_L2447182.0.html)

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT is aware of publicly available exploit code and materials explaining how to exploit a race condition vulnerability in Sendmail. Sendmail improperly handles asynchronous signals causing a race condition vulnerability. Successful exploitation may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary commands with the privileges of the user. For more information please review the following:

**TA06-081A** – Sendmail Race Condition Vulnerability

<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06-081A.html>

**VU#834865** – Sendmail contains a race condition

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/834865>

## Sendmail MTA Security Vulnerability Advisory

<http://www.sendmail.com/company/advisory/>

US-CERT recommends the following actions to mitigate the security risks:

Upgrade to the latest version: Sendmail 8.13.6.

<http://www.sendmail.org/releases/8.13.6.html>

Review the Sendmail MTA Security Vulnerability Advisory for steps to reduce the impact of this vulnerability. <http://www.sendmail.com/company/advisory/#mitigation>

US-CERT is not aware of any working exploit code at this time.

### Phishing Scams

US-CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. US-CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US-CERT.

[http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report\\_phishing.html](http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html)

Non-federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 25 (smtp), 32459 (----), 445 (microsoft-ds), 41170 (----), 6348 (----), 50497 (----), 80 (www), 55620 (----) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

45. *April 26, Chattanooga Times (TN)* — **Schools increase security: Internal threats considered as well as external.** The Whitfield County Career Academy in Dalton, GA, has 36 surveillance cameras trained on the critical areas around campus. "Over the last 12 months, we've had a number of break-ins at various schools, so it's made security more of a priority for the system," said Mike Ewton, director of safety and security for Whitfield County Schools. "We've had a total of 13 burglaries this school year, since August." Other North Georgia school systems are looking to address security issues, too, including potential threats from within. Many security measures have become standard in North Georgia schools, administrators said. Most have school resource officers and surveillance cameras, and many are moving toward the card swipe systems at all doorways. Most lock all doors but the main entrance, channel all visitors into the

central office and require people to sign in or out at all times except at the beginning and end of the school day. Outbreaks of violence across the country in recent years, and more recent incidents of threats against students or schools on the Internet, have pushed school security to the forefront of administrators' minds, school officials said.

Source: <http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2006/04/26/1612571.htm>

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

#### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to <a href="mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov">dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov</a> or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644.
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to <a href="mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov">dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov</a> or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644 for more information.

#### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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